



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

April 8, 2004

**MULTIPLE ARRESTS OF LEE COUNTY,
FLORIDA, MEN ON FEDERAL GAMBLING CHARGES**

Fort Myers, FL - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced the filing of Criminal Complaints yesterday against, and the arrests today of, John J. Rodney, Jr., age 41, and Joseph A. DiLorenzo, age 43, of Estero, Florida; John Dominick Tartaglione, age 32; Daniel Thomas Biancullo, age 41, Anthony Lee Miller, Jr., age 37, Gerard Hendel, age 42, Jai Pasquale, age 28, Salvatore J. Salerno, age 32, Nicholas J. DelNegro, age 27, and Joseph Louis Pasquale, age 27, all of Fort Myers, Florida; Christopher Paraldi, age 27, and Todd R. Meady, age 27, both of Cape Coral, Florida, charging them with conspiracy to transmit wagering information by interstate and foreign wire and to operate an illegal gambling enterprise. Defendants each face a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.00, if convicted.

According to the Complaints, three Fort Myers businesses have been involved in the illegal gambling activity. Player's Edge, Inc., operated by John R. Rodney in Fort Myers from 1993 to 2003; National Sports Consultants, Inc., started by Robert Robitzek and

Joseph DiLorenzo in 2003 as a successor to Player's Edge, Inc., in the same business rental unit at 15881 South Tamiami Trail, Unit #6, Fort Myers, Florida. Nationwide Sports, Inc., was started by Nicholas DelNegro, a former employee of Player's Edge, Inc., in 2002. Defendants are accused of soliciting and receiving money for gambling advise, referring clients to special offshore gambling casinos, and receiving referral fees back from the casino, at all three businesses. Such activity is illegal in the State of Florida.

A Criminal Complaint is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws. Every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

The case was investigated by the Lee County Sheriff's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Internal Revenue Service and the United States Secret Service, and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert P. Barclift.